

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A multi-channel serdes receiver, comprising:

a central frequency synthesizer; and

a plurality of channel-specific receivers coupled to said central frequency synthesizer,

each of said plurality of channel-specific receivers including two integrators configured to perform a first 1:2 demultiplexing operation and a clock recovery circuit having a phase detector and a phase interpolator, said clock recovery circuit coupling said phase detector and said central frequency synthesizer.
2. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said central frequency synthesizer includes a voltage-controlled oscillator.
3. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said central frequency synthesizer is a phase-locked loop.
4. (currently amended) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of channel-specific receivers further includes at least one integrator coupled to said phase interpolator and a demultiplexer.
5. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 4 wherein said at least one integrator performs an integrate-and-dump function.
6. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said clock recovery circuit comprises a delay-locked loop clock and data recovery circuit.
7. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said central frequency synthesizer provides both in-phase and quadrature-phase clock signals.
8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 & further comprising four latches coupled to said integrators and configured to perform a second 1:2 demultiplexing operation.

10. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a clock generation circuit coupled to said phase interpolator and configured to generate a plurality of clock signals.

11. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 10 further comprising at least one synchronizer configured to reduce skew between said plurality of clock signals.

12. (currently amended) A method of operating a multi-channel serdes receiver, comprising:

generating a central clock signal with a central frequency synthesizer; and

transmitting said central clock signal to a plurality of channel-specific receivers coupled to said central frequency synthesizer, each of said plurality of channel-specific receivers including two integrators configured to perform a first 1:2 demultiplexing operation and a clock recovery circuit having a phase detector and a phase interpolator, said clock recovery circuit coupling said phase detector and said central frequency synthesizer.

13. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said central frequency synthesizer includes a voltage-controlled oscillator.

14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said central frequency synthesizer is a phase-locked loop.

15. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said plurality of channel-specific receivers further includes at least one integrator coupled to said phase interpolator and a demultiplexer.

16. (original) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said at least one integrator performs an integrate-and-dump function.

17. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said clock recovery circuit comprises a delay-locked loop clock and data recovery circuit.

18. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said central clock signal contains both in-phase and quadrature-phase clock signals.

19. (canceled)

20. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 further comprising four latches coupled to said integrators, said latches performing a second 1:2 demultiplexing operation.

21. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 further comprising a clock generation circuit, coupled to said phase interpolator, generating a plurality of clock signals.

22. (original) The receiver as recited in Claim 21 further comprising reducing a skew between said plurality of clock signals with at least one synchronizer.

23. (currently amended) An integrated circuit, comprising:
a substrate; and
a plurality of circuit layers located over said substrate and arranged to form a multi-channel serdes receiver that includes:

a central frequency synthesizer, and

a plurality of channel-specific receivers coupled to said central frequency synthesizer, each of said plurality of channel-specific receivers including two integrators configured to perform a first 1:2 demultiplexing operation and a clock recovery circuit having a phase detector and a phase interpolator, said clock recovery circuit coupling said phase detector and said central frequency synthesizer.

24. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 wherein said central frequency synthesizer includes a voltage-controlled oscillator.

25. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 wherein said central frequency synthesizer is a phase-locked loop.

26. (currently amended) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 wherein said plurality of channel-specific receivers further includes at least one integrator coupled to said phase interpolator and a demultiplexer.

27. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 26 wherein said at least one integrator performs an integrate-and-dump function.

28. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 wherein said clock recovery circuit comprises a delay-locked loop clock and data recovery circuit.

29. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 wherein said central frequency synthesizer provides both in-phase and quadrature-phase clock signals.

30. (canceled)

31. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 further comprising four latches coupled to said integrators and configured to perform a second 1:2 demultiplexing operation.

32. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 23 further comprising a clock generation circuit coupled to said phase interpolator and configured to generate a plurality of clock signals.

33. (original) The integrated circuit as recited in Claim 32 further comprising at least one synchronizer configured to reduce skew between said plurality of clock signals.